Project for increasing vegetable production

3225. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken any decision to financially help to implement a project for increasing vegetable production to attain self-sufficiency;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay; and

(c) whether Government would financially help the Kerala Government to implement this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Government of India has implemented Central Sector Scheme on 'Production & Supply of Vegetable Seeds' 'Development of Root & Tuber Crops' and 'Development of Mushroom' in the country during VIII Five Year Plan, These schemes have been continuing with an enhanced outlay during IX Five Year Plan.

The Government of Kerala submitted a project proposal for increasing vegetable production to attain self-sufficiency in the State. On the suggestion of Government of India the State Government of Kerala has submitted the revised proposal to National Horticulture Board to avail the assistance for setting up of cold storages and post harvest management facilities at the cost of Rs. 368.50 lakh. National Horticulture Board has examined the proposal and sought some clarifications from State Government. Reply from State Government is awaited. There is no delay at the level of Government of India.

Floor price of Copra

3226. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the coconut cultivators as well as the Kerala Government have strongly protested against the floor price fixed for one quintal of copra as the rate is less than a remunerative price; and

(b) if so, whether Government would revise the floor price as already announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Government of India announced on 10th June, 1998, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of Milling Copra at Rs. 2900 per quintal and Ball Copra at Rs. 3125 per quintal for 1998 season. The MSPs for 1998 season mark a substantial increase of Rs. 200 per quintal each for milling Copra and Ball Copra over their respective MSPs for last year. This also marks an increase of Rs. 40 per quintal in the MSP of Milling Copra and Rs. 25 per quintal of Ball Copra over the MSPs recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. The Government has not received any representation from the Government of Kerala or the coconut cultivators to enhance the MSP already declared.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to revise the MSP already announce.

बंजर भूमि को कृषि योग्य भूमि में परिवर्तित किया जाना

3227. श्रीमती शबाना आज़मी:
श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:
श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हमारे देश में कुल भौगोलिक भूमि की मात्रा 43% भूमि ही कृषि कार्यों हेतु उपयोग में लाई जा रही है जबकि 39% भूमि बंजर भूमि है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार का आकलन क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने देश की संपूर्ण बंजर भूमि को कृषि योग्य भूमि बनाने के लिए कोई योजना तैयार करने और उसे लागू करने का निर्णय लिया है; और

(घ) इसे कृषि योग्य भूमि बनाने के लिए क्या समयबद्ध लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोम पाल): (क) और (ख) नवीनतम भू-उपयोग आंकड़ों (1994-95) के अनुसार देश के कुल 329 मिलियन हैक्टेयर भौगोलिक क्षेत्र में से वास्तविक बुआई क्षेत्र लगभग 142.8 मिलियन हैक्टे० है जो भौगोलिक क्षेत्र का लगभग 43 प्रतिशत है जबकि बंजर भूमि के तहत आने वाला क्षेत्र लगभग 18.8 मिलियन हैक्टेयर है जो लगभग 5.7 प्रतिशत है।

(ग) से (घ) बंजर भूमि में वनस्पति रहित खड़े पर्वतीय ढ़लान, बर्फ से ढ़के तथा ऐसे ही अन्य क्षेत्र आदि शामिल है, जिन्हें आर्थिक दृष्टिकोण से व्यवहार्य लागत पर कृषि योग्य नहीं बनाया जा सकता। अतः इस प्रकार की बंजर भूमि को कृषि योग्य बनाने के लिए कोई कार्य योजना नहीं बनाई गई है।

Scrapping of Milk and Milk Product order, 1992

3228. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Milk and Milk Product Order which was issued in 1992 has stifled the growth of the dairy industry and has prevented many prospective entrants from setting up production unit; and

(b) whether Government propose to scrap that order and if so, when and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Milk and Milk Product Order, 1992 (MMPO) was promulgated with a view to provide for regulating the production, supply and distribution of milk and milk products and for maintaining and increasing the supply of liquid milk of desired quality. The MMPO has not stifled but regulated the growth of the dairy industry by permitting only such units as could source a marketable surplus of milk and has the capacity for handling milk under hygienic conditions.

(b) There is at present no proposal to scrap the MMPO

Plans for Agricultural Develpment in North-East

3229. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the plans and programme for the development of agriculture in the North Eastern region of the country;

(b) the present status of these plans and programmes; and

(c) how far they have benefited the North-Eastern region

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The status of the ongoing Central/Centrally sponsored schemes under implementation in the North-Eastern Region is given in Statement-I (*see* below)

(c) All the Schemes (Statement-I) are production/area oriented which aim at raising the agricultural production through enhanced used of latest techniques and implements. Since these Scheme confer both direct and indirect benefit for the development of agriculture, it is not possible to make a physical assessment of the benefit under the scheme. However, benefits accrued under some of the schemes are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

Statement-I

Scheme Implemented in North Eastern States

S.No.	Name of Schemes
1.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme -Rice.
2.	Sustainable Development of Sugar-cane based Cropping System.